

ABSTRACT

An overcurrent is prevented from flowing in an output circuit when a short circuit occurs between an output terminal and a power supply terminal or a ground terminal. For this purpose, provided is an output circuit comprising a power supply terminal, a ground terminal, and an output terminal connected to a capacitive load. Depending on the state of a load control input signal, the output circuit performs selectively a charging-current supplying operation of supplying a charging-current from the power supply terminal to the capacitive load and a discharging-current withdrawing operation of withdrawing a discharging-current from the capacitive load to the ground terminal. Further, an overcharging-current prevention switch is provided for detecting a short circuit between the output terminal and the ground terminal so as to stop or suppress the charging-current supplying operation. Furthermore, an overdischarging-current prevention switch is provided for detecting a short circuit between the output terminal and the power supply terminal so as to stop or suppress the discharging-current withdrawing operation.